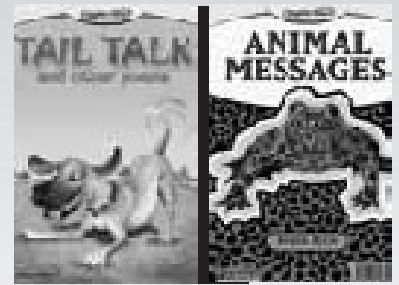


Tail Talk and other poems

Animal Messages

This book uses non-fiction text and poems to explore communication between animals.



Big Ideas

Using these two titles, your students can explore and make links between the following big ideas:

- There are many reasons why animals need to communicate with each other.
- Animal messages can be interpreted both within and between the species.
- People are only able to interpret some animal messages.
- Speech is only one form of communication.

Fiction

Tail Talk and other poems

by Jill Brasell, Philippa Werry, Hayley MacDuff

Summary

This anthology of poems looks at the ways that animals communicate with each other and with people.

Features of the Text

- Variety of rhymes
- Narrative poetry
- Descriptive language used to convey how animals communicate – *waggle, tail's a flag, rattle*

Purpose

Tail Talk and other poems can be used for the following purposes:

- introducing the ideas and vocabulary in the associated non-fiction title;
- encouraging students to enjoy reading and listening to poetry;
- understanding how rhythm and rhyme are used for poetic effect;
- exploring the author's use of descriptive language;
- finding factual information in poems.

Following Up

The students can:

- recite their choice of poem with fluency and expression
- find examples of similes and metaphors in other texts and discuss them with a group
- record animal facts on the blackline master on page 26.

Guided Reading Summary

Introducing the text

Look at the cover of the book and discuss the title and illustration.

– *What does it mean when a dog wags its tail? What message is the dog trying to give?*

Discuss links with the students' own experiences (pets, zoo visits).

– *What other animals might we see in this book?*

Reading and discussing the text

Choose one poem to read aloud to the group.

– *How has this animal sent a message?*

Discuss the way poems can contain facts.

Ask the students to turn to page 2.

– *When might a whale want to communicate with other whales or with other creatures?*

Discuss the different reasons why animals communicate.

Ask the students to read the other poems and to find the places where the authors have compared the animals with something else, such as ants "like a long machine". Explain that these comparisons are called similes (when one thing is said to be like another) or metaphors (when one thing is said to actually be another).

– *Can you find any other similes or metaphors in the poems?*

– *Why do authors use language in this way?*